

REFERENCE TITLE: **smart school technology pilot program**

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-first Legislature
Second Regular Session
2014

SB 1466

Introduced by
Senators McComish, Driggs, Pancrazi, Pierce: Tovar, Worsley;
Representatives Carter, Coleman

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE SMART SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Smart school technology pilot program; request for
3 proposals; independent evaluating committee;
4 rules; reports; delayed repeal

5 A. The department of education, in cooperation with the superintendent
6 of public instruction, shall establish a three-year smart school technology
7 pilot program to encourage the deployment of whole-school technology in
8 public schools.

9 B. The department of education, with input from the independent
10 evaluating committee established by this section, shall issue a request for
11 proposals for the development and implementation of a whole-school technology
12 deployment plan for schools.

13 C. From recommendations submitted by the independent evaluating
14 committee, the department of education shall select a single education
15 technology provider with integrated whole-school technology deployment
16 experience from among the entities that submitted proposals.

17 D. The independent evaluating committee is established to:

18 1. Advise the department of education in issuing a request for
19 proposals pursuant to this section.

20 2. Evaluate proposals submitted pursuant to this section.

21 3. Advise the department of education on the selection of schools to
22 participate in the pilot program.

23 E. The independent evaluating committee shall consist of the
24 following:

25 1. Three members of the state board of education who are appointed by
26 the chief presiding officer of the state board of education.

27 2. The chief information officer for information technology.

28 3. Two members who are appointed by the chief executive officer of the
29 Arizona commerce authority.

30 4. The governor or the governor's designee.

31 F. The independent evaluating committee shall evaluate each proposal
32 submitted pursuant to this section with respect to both of the following:

33 1. A provider's experience with integrated whole-school technology
34 deployment.

35 2. The components of a one-to-one mobile initiative plan.

36 G. The educational technology provider selected pursuant to this
37 section shall develop a one-to-one mobile initiative plan for each school
38 district and charter school participating in the pilot program. The
39 one-to-one mobile initiative plan must be based on proposals submitted to the
40 committee and must include the following components:

41 1. A mobile learning device or digital textbook for each student and
42 teacher.

43 2. Peripherals and networking equipment, including a next-generation
44 wireless network that is capable of supporting all connected devices
45 simultaneously.

1 3. Professional development for educators, students and technology
2 specialists on the following:

- 3 (a) Incorporating digital technology in education.
- 4 (b) The operation and use of the technology equipment.
- 5 (c) Accessing and using digital curricula.
- 6 (d) Digital citizenship.
- 7 (e) Cost savings for administrators.

8 4. Internet filtering that allows for on-campus and off-campus
9 security.

10 5. Operating software for the technology system, including software
11 that connects digital learning devices among students and teachers to
12 facilitate classroom interaction.

- 13 6. An evaluation by an independent third party.

- 14 7. Ongoing technical support.

15 H. A school district or charter school may submit an application to
16 the department of education to participate in the pilot program. The
17 application must include an implementation plan that includes the following:

18 1. A mobile learning device or digital textbook for each student and
19 teacher.

20 2. Peripherals and networking equipment, including a next-generation
21 wireless network that is capable of supporting all connected devices
22 simultaneously.

23 3. Professional development for educators, students and technology
24 specialists on the following:

- 25 (a) Incorporating digital technology in education.
- 26 (b) The operation and use of the technology equipment.
- 27 (c) Accessing and using digital curricula.
- 28 (d) Digital citizenship.
- 29 (e) Cost savings for administrators.

30 4. Internet filtering that allows for on-campus and off-campus
31 security.

- 32 5. The total costs for participation in the pilot program.

- 33 6. The deployment schedule.

- 34 7. A schedule for the execution of the implementation plan.

- 35 8. Purchase plans for software and other necessary content.

36 I. The department of education, with input from the independent
37 evaluating committee and the superintendent of public instruction, shall
38 select school districts and charter schools to participate in the program.
39 The department of education shall distribute technology grants from monies
40 appropriated for this purpose to school districts and charter schools that
41 are selected to participate in the pilot program. To the extent possible,
42 the department of education shall attempt to select school districts and
43 charter schools with students:

- 44 1. From different geographic regions of the state.

- 45 2. From both urban and rural areas.

1 3. With a variety of economic and demographic characteristics.

2 J. Notwithstanding any other law, the superintendent of public
3 instruction shall issue temporary waivers from school finance laws for the
4 duration of the pilot program that allow the school districts and charter
5 schools that are selected to participate in the pilot program increased
6 flexibility to budget and expend monies on education technology.

7 K. Notwithstanding any other law, any budgetary savings incurred as
8 the result of participation in the pilot program may be retained by the
9 participating school districts and charter schools and may be expended for
10 any lawful purpose.

11 L. The state board of education shall adopt rules specifying
12 procedures and criteria to be used for selecting schools to participate in
13 the pilot program.

14 M. On or before November 15 of 2015, 2016 and 2017, the department of
15 education, in collaboration with the education technology provider and the
16 school districts and charter schools that participate in the pilot program,
17 shall evaluate the program and submit a report that summarizes the results of
18 the pilot program to the governor, the president of the senate and the
19 speaker of the house of representatives. The report that is submitted in
20 2017 may include proposed legislation to permanently change the school
21 finance laws to allow school districts and charter schools increased
22 flexibility to budget and expend monies on education technology. The
23 department of education shall provide a copy of these reports to the
24 secretary of state.

25 N. The department of education may contract with an independent
26 evaluator to conduct the evaluations prescribed in subsection M of this
27 section.

28 O. This section is repealed from and after September 30, 2018.

29 Sec. 2. Appropriation: department of education: technology
30 grants

31 The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in
32 fiscal year 2014-2015 to the department of education for technology grants to
33 school districts and charter schools that are selected to participate in the
34 smart school technology pilot program established by this act.